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ASDS, FMP

-----F062AD 251759Z /38

O P 251801Z AUG 99

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA IMMEDIATE

INFO OSAF WASHDC/LL PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 159544

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: OREP, ASEC, AFIN, SNAR, CO, NU, VE

SUBJECT: CODEL BALLENGER

1. REP. CASS BALLENGER (R-NC), A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE (HIRC), PLANS TO TRAVEL
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TO VENEZUELA, COLOMBIA, AND NICARAGUA AUG 30-SEP 03. REP.
BALLENGER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE, MRS. DONNA
BALLENGER; REP. WILLIAM DELAHUNT (D-MA), A MEMBER OF THE
COMMITTEE; HIRC PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBERS CALEB MCCARRY
(MAJORITY) AND SEAN CARROLL (MINORITY); MAJ ROBERT CRAIG,
USAF ESCORT. TRAVEL WILL BE VIA MILAIR C-38 AND INCLUDE
TWO PILOTS AND A USAF SECURITY OFFICER FOR THE PLANE.

2. PURPOSE OF VISIT TO VENEZUELA IS TO REASSESS
CONDITIONS IN THE WAKE OF THE JULY 25 ELECTION. IN
COLOMBIA, TO ASSESS THE STATUS OF THE WAR ON DRUGS AND
NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND FARC. IN
NICARAGUA, TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF U.S. AID SENT TO

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ALAN H FLANIGAN
DATE/CASE ID: 18 JUN 2007 200504156

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REBUILD IN THE AFTERMATH OF HURRICNE MITCH AND EXAMINE THE
PROGRESS WITH SETTLEMENT OF PROPERTY CLAIMS BY U.S.

CITIZENS AND THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT. REQUEST COUNTRY
CLEARANCE AND A THREAT ASSESSMENT.

3. TENTATIVE ITINERARY (VIA MILAIR)/APPOINTMENT REQUESTS:

CARACAS (ARRIVE 8/29 1230; DEPART 8/30 1800)
PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ
FOREIGNMINISTER JOSE VICENTE RANGEL
HOUSE SPEAKER HENRIQUE CAPRILES
ELIAS SANTANA, DIRECTOR, ESCURLA VECINOS AND QUEREMOS
ELEGIR
JOSE ANTONIO GIL YEPES, POLLSTER, SANTANALISIS
JANET KELLY, IEDA (BUSINESS SCHOOL/THINK TANK)

BOGOTA (ARRIVE 8/30 1830; DEPART 9/1 0900)
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(PRIORITY SOULD BE PLACED ON ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH
COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS)
PRESIDENT ANDRES PASTRANA ARANGO
DEFENSE MINISTER LUIS FERNANDO RAMIREZ
ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL FERNANDO TAPIAS
MINISTER OF FINANCE JUAN RESTREPO
NATIONAL PLANNING DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR JAIME RUIZ
POLICE DIRECTOR GENERAL ROSSO JOSE SERRANO
CHIEF GOVERNMENT NEGOTIATOR VICTOR RICARDO
VICE MINISTER OF JUSTICE MAURICIO GONZALEZ
GUSTAVO GALLON, HEAD OF THE COLOMBIAN COMMISSION OF
JURISTS
GERMAN BOTERO, PRSIDENT OF THE COLOMBIAN ASSO. OF FLOWER
GROWERS
HANS REITZEL, PROFESSOR, JESUIT UNIVERSITY OF BOGOTA

MANAGUA (ARRIVE 9/1 1015; DEPART 9/3 NOON)
PRESIDENT ARNOLDO ALEMAN LACAYO
VICE PRESIDENT ENRIQUE BOLANOS
CARDINAL OBANDO Y BRAVO
MSGR. CABALLO, RADIO CATOLICA
LUIS HUMBERTO GUZMAN, FORMER NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT
SALVADOR TALAVERA, FORMER NICARAGUAN RESISTENCE LEADER
MINISTER OF DEFENSE PEDRO JOAQUIN CHAMORRO
VICE MINISTER OF DEFENSE JOSE ADAN GUERRA
ARMY COMMANDER JOAQUIN CUADRA
GENERAL JAVIER CARRION

KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN, COUNTRY DIRECTOR, PRO MUJER, MICRO-

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CREDIT AND TRAINING PROGRAM FOR WOMEN (505-311-6452).

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REP. BALLENGER ALSO WISHES TO SCHEDULE A TRIP TO
CHINANDEGA TO VIEW THE REMAINS OF THE VOLCANO AND TO
REVIEW THE ONGOING HABITAT FOR HUMANITY EFFORTS TO REBUILD
HOMES IN THAT REGION. N.B. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT MR.
DELAHUNT WILL DEPART MANAGUA ON THURSDAY MORNING 9/2 AT
0755 VIA CO-758 FOR HOUSTON.

4. PLEASE DESIGNATE A CONTROL OFFICER TO ASSIST WITH
THE VISIT, MEET AND ASSIST, AND PROVIDE PER DIEM AND
LOCAL TRANSPORTATION. ALSO, PLEASE RESERVE HOTEL
ACCOMMODATIONS AND CONFIRM WITH ADDRESS, PHONE/FAX
NUMBERS, AND DAILY RATE IN USDOLS. PLEASE ADVISE IF
TAX, SERVICE, AND BREAKFAST ARE INCLUDED IN RATE.

5. AUTHORIZATION: REF 92 STATE 242195, CHARGE HOUSE
APPROPRIATION 00X0488.1-2089-910219, SUB-OBJECTS
2166/2167/2168 AS APPROPRIATE. DISBURSE USD
EQUIVALENT 75 PER DAY OR MAXIMUM RATE OF USG PER DIEM
ALLOWANCE, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, LOCAL TRANSPORTATION
COSTS, AND OTHER OFFICIAL EXPENSES, AUTHORIZED
BALLENGER/DELAHUNT/MCCARRY BY THE HOUSE INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS COMMITTEE. SPOUSE AND DOD ESCORT ARE
NOT/NOT AUTHORIZED CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING. (ONLY THE
MIE RATE OR USDE 75, WHICHEVER IS GREATER, IS
AUTHORIZED WHEREVER GOVERNMENT HOUSING OR PRIVATE
LODGING IS PROVIDED.) REQUEST REPORT BY CABLE OF
CHARGES ASAP AFTER DEPARTURE FOR THE ATTENTION OF H
AND FMP/CAA.

6. ALL OFFICIAL IN-COUNTRY SCHEDULES ARRANGED BY POSTS
SHOULD BE FORWARDED VIA CABLE TO THE DEPARTMENT (H AND
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WHA). POSTS AND CONTROL OFFICERS ARE REQUESTED TO AVOID
RESPONDING TO CODEL/STAFFDEL MESSAGES EITHER BY FAX OR IN
THE H-PASS SERIES. THE H-PASS SERIES SHOULD BE USED
EXCLUSIVELY FOR CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES REGARDING CA, PPT,
VO CASES. YOUR ASSISTANCE IS APPRECIATED.
ALBRIGHT

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